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## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>6</sup> :

A61K 9/72

A2

(11) International Publication Number:

WO 97/03658

(43) International Publication Date:

6 February 1997 (06.02.97)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB96/01647

(22) International Filing Date: 10 July 1996 (10.07.96)

(30) Priority Data:

9514469.7	14 July 1995 (14.07.95)	GB
9515666.7	28 July 1995 (28.07.95)	GB
08/610,555	6 March 1996 (06.03.96)	US

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(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

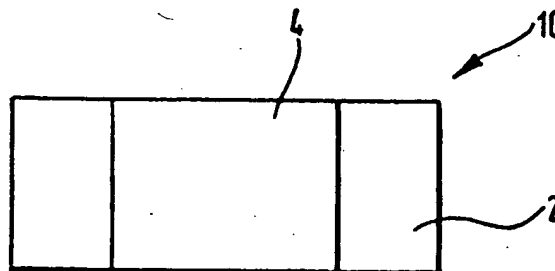
Published

Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.

(54) Title: USE OF AROMAS AND FLAVOURS TO INDUCE OR CHANGE EATING PATTERNS

(57) Abstract

A device (10) for use in delivering an aroma, the device comprising lint (4) or similar material impregnated with the substance giving the desired aroma, the lint being incorporated into an adhesive plaster or patch (2), for application to the skin.



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USE OF AROMAS AND FLAVOURS TO INDUCE OR  
CHANGE EATING PATTERNS

The present invention relates to a method and apparatus for inhaling aromas, perfumes, essences, odours and the like to inhibit, induce or change eating patterns, in particular cravings or desires for particular types of food or drink. The invention also encompasses the use of aromas and the like more generally for inhibiting, inducing or changing other aspects of human behaviour and conditions.

The invention is more particularly directed towards the regulation of bodyweight, in which the aroma is used to take away or at least significantly reduce the craving for sweet foods and drink, particularly chocolate.

It has been proposed that the inhalation of aromas can be of benefit in the control of bodyweight, but hitherto there has not been proposed any suitable, convenient way of delivering the aroma on a regular or continuous basis. Inhaler devices, such as those used by persons suffering from nasal congestion, have been proposed, but these have the disadvantage that they have to be carried around by the person using them, and can easily be forgotten or lost.

It is therefore the aim of the present invention to provide a simple device for allowing the aroma to be easily inhaled as and when required or advised.

According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a device for use in delivering an aroma, the device comprising lint or similar material impregnated with the substance giving the desired aroma, the lint being incorporated into an adhesive plaster or patch, for application to the skin.

Preferably, the surface of the lint which would otherwise come into contact with the skin is covered with an impervious layer, to prevent the aroma substance from entering the body through

(c) cutting the lint and fabric combination into individual plasters.

For convenience, the lint is preferably impregnated whilst in the roll, and is then slit into the desired width, eg 1.5cm rolls which can then be used on conventional plaster making machinery.

The method also preferably includes the step of applying an impervious layer to the exposed surface of the impregnated lint. The free side of this impervious layer is then coated with a suitable adhesive, and the peelable "shields" applied.

Preferably, the method also includes the step of forming a series of holes in the adhesive fabric backing, such that when the individual plasters are cut from the strips, there is one central hole in each plaster.

Preferably, the method also includes the final step of sealing the plasters individually into an impervious wrapper.

Embodiments of the present invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

Figure 1 is a plan view of a plaster in accordance with the first aspect of the invention;

Figure 2 is a side view of the plaster shown in Figure 1,;

Figure 3 is a plan view of an alternative embodiment of the first aspect of the invention; and

Figure 4 is a side view of the plaster shown in Figure 3.

Referring to Figure 1 and 2 of the drawings, a plaster 10 comprises a self adhesive backing layer 2 (fabric or plastic)

bearing in the centre thereof a piece of lint 3, the latter having being impregnated with the desired aroma substance, eg a mixture of vanillin and ethanol, the exposed surface of the lint being covered with an impervious layer 4 which prevents the substance from coming into contact with the skin when the plaster is worn.

When worn on the skin in a convenient place, using a fresh patch every day, the aroma given off by the plaster may be inhaled as required or as directed, to assist in, for example, bodyweight control either alone or in conjunction with dieting.

The individual plasters 10 are packed in individual impervious wrappers, in strips of seven. Four strips of seven plasters would be provided in a pack as 28 days' supply.

Whilst the plaster illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 is generally rectangular, in the preferred embodiment shown in Figures 3 and 4 the plaster 20 is generally square, with a smaller square of lint 23 located centrally, sandwiched between the adhesive backing layer 22 and the impervious layer 24 with a central hole 25 in the backing layer, to allow the aroma from the lint 23 to escape.

CLAIMS

1. A device for use in delivering an aroma, the device comprising lint or similar material impregnated with the substance giving the desired aroma, the lint being incorporated into an adhesive plaster or patch, for application to the skin.
2. A device according to Claim 1 wherein the surface of the lint which would otherwise come into contact with the skin is covered with an impervious layer, to prevent the aroma substance from entering the body through the skin.
3. A device according to Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein the lint covers the full width of the plaster, so that the aroma can easily escape from the edges.
4. A device according to any of the preceding Claims, wherein the surface of the plaster which is exposed when the plaster is worn, i.e the adhesive fabric backing, includes a central hole, so that the aroma from the lint may escape therethrough
5. A device according to any of the preceding Claims wherein the plaster is made from permeable fabric, which allows the plaster to "breath", and the aroma to be given off through the fabric as well as from the edges of the plaster.
6. A device according to any of the preceding Claims, wherein each plaster is individually sealed in an impervious wrapper, to retain the aroma until use.
7. A device according to any of the preceding Claims, wherein the aroma is vanilla.
8. A device according to any of Claims 1 to 7 wherein the aroma is lavender.
9. A device according to any of Claims 1 to 7 wherein the

aroma is that of pumpkin.

10. A device according to Claim 7 wherein the substance is a 50/50 mixture of Floral Vanillin (Ref. C 6031/E Flora by A. Algto Ltd) and denatured ethanol, applied at the rate of 20, kilos per 250m roll of lint (one metre width).
11. A device according to any of the preceding Claims wherein the aroma comprises a single, pure aroma.
12. A device according to any of Claims 1 to 11 wherein the aroma comprises a mixture of different aromas, diluted if necessary in either ethanol or any other suitable dilutant.
13. A method of manufacturing an adhesive plaster incorporating an aroma, for application to the skin, the method including the steps of:-
  - (a) impregnating lint or other similar material with a substance giving the desired aroma and allowing the impregnated lint to dry,
  - (b) applying the lint to an adhesive fabric backing, and
  - (c) cutting the lint and fabric combination into individual plasters.
14. A method according to Claim 13 wherein there is included the step of forming a series of holes in the adhesive fabric backing, such that when the individual plasters are cut, there is one central hole in each plaster, from which the aroma from the lint may escape.
15. A method according to Claim 14 wherein the lint is preferably impregnated whilst in the roll, and is then slit into rolls of the desired width.

16. A method according to any of Claims 13 to 15 wherein there is included the step of applying an impervious layer to the exposed surface of the impregnated lint.

17. A method according to Claim 16 wherein the free side of this impervious layer is then coated with a suitable adhesive, and a pair of peelable "shields" applied thereto, which are intended to be peeled off before applying the plaster to the skin.

18. A method according to any of Claims 13 to 17 wherein there is included a final step of sealing the plasters individually into an impervious wrapper.



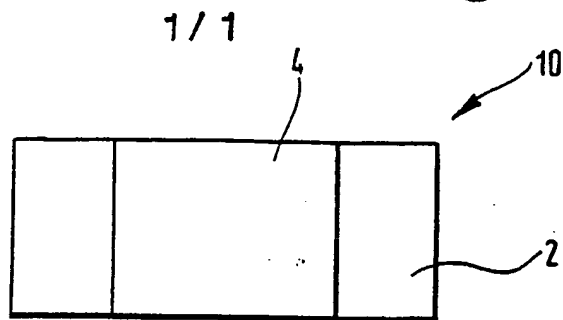


Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

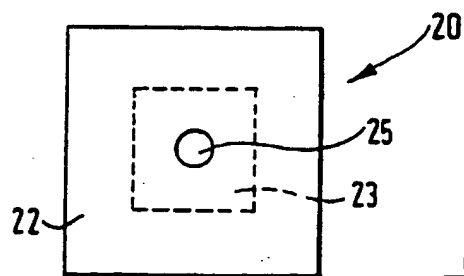


Fig. 3.

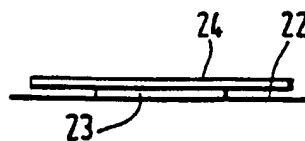


Fig. 4.

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